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# TRIP REPORT

STUDY VISIT TO SERBIA

OCTOBER 26-28, 2015

**USAID GOVERNING FOR GROWTH (G4G) IN GEORGIA**

28 October 2015

This publication was produced for review by the United States Agency for International Development. It was prepared by Deloitte Consulting LLP. The author's views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government.

# TRIP REPORT

STUDY VISIT TO THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

USAID GOVERNING FOR GROWTH (G4G) IN  
GEORGIA INITIATIVE (EPI)

CONTRACT NUMBER: AID-114-C-14-00007

DELOITTE CONSULTING LLP

USAID | GEORGIA

USAID CONTRACTING OFFICER'S  
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WORK PLANNING: 6300

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

OCTOBER 26-28, 2015

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# DATA

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**Name of Component:** GoG Capacity Strengthening Component

**Practice Area:** Innovations and Technology

**Key Words:** Innovation, GITA, study visit, law

# ABSTRACT

This trip report describes the visit of the representatives of the Legal Entity of Public Law (LEPL) Georgian Innovation and Technology Agency (GITA) and the Ministry of Finance (MoF) of Georgia to Serbia to study Serbia's innovation ecosystem and legal framework in order to facilitate the development of the legal framework for innovation in Georgia. The delegation had meetings with different organizations involved in innovation related activities.

## ABBREVIATIONS

G4G	Governing for Growth in Georgia
GITA	Georgia's Innovation and Technology Agency
MOF	Ministry of Finance of Georgia
IF	Innovation Fund of Serbia
TTO	Technology Transfer Office
R&D	Research and Development
IPR	Intellectual Property Right
IP	Intellectual Property
LEPL	Legal Entity of Public Law

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## I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The study visit to Serbia aimed at presenting Serbia's innovation system to Georgian colleagues in order to study the innovation ecosystem and legal framework of Serbia. Representatives of GITA and the MoF attended several meetings with different representatives of organizations involved in innovation related activities. On October 26, participants of the study visit were officially welcomed by the Operations Manager of IF, Ms. Milena Kostadinovic. The participants had a meeting with Ms. Vera Dondur, the State Secretary at the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development of Serbia. Ms. Dondur emphasized the importance of the innovation ecosystem for both countries and presented a brief overview of the Ministry's activities in the field of innovation. The Georgian colleagues had a chance to raise interesting questions related to grant programs under the Ministry, TTOs, R&D institutes, the Innovation Registry under the existing legislation and Innovation Strategy of Serbia etc.

Ms. Natalija Sandic, Program Manager at IF made a presentation about IF's organizational structure and its activities, finance programs (mini and matching grants), evaluation process of grant applications. The Georgian delegation had a meeting with mini & matching grant beneficiary companies and learned their experience with their projects and coordination with IF.

On October 2, the participants of the study visit were introduced to the issues related to the implementation of financing programs and procurement at IF. The representative of IF presented IF's online portal for managing mini & matching grant programs. The overview of the current innovation legislation and legal framework was presented by Ms. Bojana Novakovic, the Senior Legal Advisor at IF. Georgian colleagues addressed some legal issues of their interest. The Serbian colleague had introduced Georgian delegation to the IPR related issues and technology transfer procedures in Serbia.

The Georgian delegation had a meeting with EU Delegation in Serbia and has learned about Serbia's experience on cooperation with EU and issues related to harmonizing the national legislation with EU legislation.

On October 28, the participants of the visit had a meeting with National Intellectual Property Office of Serbia, where the Georgian delegation had an opportunity to ask questions related to IPR in Serbia and its interlinkage with innovation. The representative of the IP Office made a presentation on the structure of the IP ecosystem and its relation to the innovation.

The participants visited Business and Technology Incubator of the Belgrade and Technology Park. The Georgian delegation learned about the structure of the Incubator and Technology Park, its services and had an opportunity to explore the facility.

The last meeting was arranged at the Institute of Molecular Genetics and Genetic Engineering, where the delegation learned about the work of research institution, its strategy, implementation of the programs, IP protection and commercialization etc.

## **II. MEETINGS ARRANGED**

### **GOVERNMENT SECTOR**

Innovation Fund of Serbia

Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development

Business and Technology Incubator and Science & Technology Park of Serbia

Intellectual Property Office of the Republic of Serbia

Institute of Molecular Genetics and Genetic Engineering

### **PRIVATE SECTOR**

EKOFUNGI

Tajfun HIL

### **INTERNATIONAL**

The Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Serbia



### III. TRIP AGENDA

Summary of Meetings October 26-28, Belgrade	
Meetings with Government Sector	
October 26-27, 2015	<p><b>Venue: Innovation Fund of Serbia</b></p> <p>Overview of Innovation Fund (Ms. Milena Kostadinović, Operations Manager, Innovation Fund)</p> <p>Financing programs, Evaluation Process, Mini &amp; Matching Grants (Ms. Natalija Sandić, Program Manager, Innovation Fund)</p> <p>Implementation of financing programs (Ms. Sonja Vuletić, Financial Manager, Innovation Fund)</p> <p>Procurement procedures at Innovation Fund (Ms. Ljiljana Krejović, Procurement Specialist, Innovation Fund)</p> <p>Innovation Fund operations in accordance the Law on Innovation Activity, Serbian Innovation System towards accepting EU principles (Ms. Bojana Novaković, Senior Advisor for Legal Affairs, Innovation Fund)</p> <p>Universities and R&amp;D institutions in Serbia - Analytic overview of IPR (Mr. Dragan Psodorov, Legal Expert, Innovation Fund)</p>
October 26, 2015	<p><b>Venue: Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development</b></p> <p>Ministry's involvement in innovation related activities (Ms. Vera Dondur, State Secretary, Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development)</p>
October 28, 2015	<p><b>Venue: Intellectual Property Office of Serbia</b></p> <p>Overview of the Serbia's IP system and its linkage with innovation (Ms. Aleksandra Mihailović, Head of the Department for Legal Issues of Patents, Intellectual Property Office)</p>
October 28, 2015	<p><b>Venue: Business and Technology Incubator and Science &amp; Technology Park of Serbia</b></p> <p>Overview of the Business and Technology Incubator and Science &amp; Technology Park of Serbia (Ms. Gordana Danilović Grković, Director of Business &amp; Technology Incubator)</p>
October 28, 2015	<p><b>Venue: Institute of Molecular Genetics and Genetic Engineering</b></p> <p>Overview of the how research institutes work in Serbia and how they commercialize IP (Ms. Jelena Begović, Acting Director of Institute of Molecular Genetics and Genetic Engineering)</p>

**Meetings with International Sector**

October 27, 2015

**Venue: EU Delegation in Serbia**

Meeting with Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Serbia on the EU funded programs and international cooperation ( Dejan M. Šuvakov, Programme Manager - Operations II, EUD)

**Meetings with Private Sector (Mini & Matching Grant Beneficiaries)**

October 26, 2015

**Venue: Innovation Fund of Serbia**

Sharing the experience of Mini & Matching Grant beneficiaries (company representatives of the EKOFUNGI and Tajfun HIL)

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